(b) the legal and other processes available to protect; and

(c) when the sea farers international identity documents were revised after the twin tower attack in September 2001 and why such revision did not take place in India?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to provide specific regulation to protect the seafarers, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, has been amended by Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 2002. Following the amendment, Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2005 have been promulgated on 18.3.2005 to regulate and control recruitment and placement service. The Rules prescribe procedure for protection to the Seafarers from being stranded in foreign ports, protection from failure of Recruitment and Placement Service in meeting its obligations and provision for their repatriation.

(c) The seafarers identity document was revised by International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Seafarers' Identity Document Convention (Revised), 2003 (No 185) which was adopted in June, 2003 and came into force on 9th February, 2005. All Indian seafarers are issued Continuous Discharge Certificate-cum-Seafarers Identity Document in compliance with ILO Convention No. 108. In order to make the Continuous Discharge Certificate-cum-Seafarers Identity Document compliant with ILO Convention No. 185 the Government of India has ratified ILO Convention No. 108 on 17.1.2005 and thereby, under article 9 of International Labour Organization Convention No. 185, the existing Continuous Discharge-cum-Seafarers Identity Document which is in possession of Indian seafarers is considered as compliant with International Labour Organization Convention No. 185 under its "Transitional Provision".

**Setting up of Orissa Maritime Academy**

3318. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the approval of the Central Government, Orissa State has set up Orissa Maritime Academy to train Seamen for

Indian and Foreign Shipping Companies and a number of batches have been imparted training since its inception in 1993;

(b) whether lack of job opportunities for the passed-out cadets in shipping cornpanies has become a major cause of disappointment among them;

(c) whether Chief Minister of Orissa has written to him in the matter with the request to prevail upon the DG Shipping to conduct selection of these seamen for recruitment in the shipping lines; and

(d) if so,the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In fact, job opportunities for the seafarers are available around the globe and they are employed by all shipping companies as per their eligibility and merit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Opening up of cruise shipping sector**

3319. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open up cruise shipping sector for foreign direct investment as part of its efforts to promote tourism;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to amend Merchant Shipping Act;

(c) whether high power steering group under Chairmanship of Minister of Shipping and Minister of State for Tourism as its Co-Chairman have been set up to finalise policy in this regard;

(d) if so, what are their main suggestions and by what time a final decision for implementation of their suggestions is likely to be considered; and

(e) to what extent Government have agreed for foreign direct investment of shipping sector?